

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is presented to place the application in proper form for examination and to eliminate multiple dependency from the present claims. No new matter has been added. Early examination and favorable consideration of the above-identified application is earnestly solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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Abstract

~~Operator control element for motor vehicle components~~

~~The invention relates to an~~ An operator control element for motor vehicles ~~having~~ includes a fixed base body (1), a handle (3) which is mounted so as to be capable of rotating about an axis (2) in the base body (1), display windows (10) which are arranged radially around the axis (2), and an illumination device for illuminating at least one of the display windows (10). The ~~invention provides that the~~ illumination device has a plurality of light sources (7) which are arranged radially around the axis (2) of the handle (3) on the fixed base body (1) and can be switched individually[[, a]]. A lightguide element (5) is permanently connected to the handle (3) and has a light input face, which is successively moved past the light sources (7) when the handle (3) rotates, and a light output face, which is assigned to a photosensitive element (8). The photosensitive element (8) is connected to an electronic circuit (9) for evaluating the output signal of the photosensitive element (8), it being possible to determine a rotary position of the handle (3) by successively switching the light sources (7) and evaluating the output signal of the photosensitive element (8).

Figure 1